

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated October 23, 2006. By this amendment, claims 1-28 are canceled and claims 29-52 are added. Currently pending claims 29-52 are believed to be allowable, with claims 29, 37 and 50 being independent claims.

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment states, "the remark and claim dependencies are mixed-up and confusing." In an effort to clear up the claim numbering and avoid any further confusion, the Applicants have canceled the original claims of the application and added new claims 29-52. The subject matter of claims 29-52 closely matches that original claims 1-28, as discussed below.

The original claims filed June 19, 2001 contained two claims numbered "claim 1". The Office Action dated November 23, 2004 rejected both originally filed "claim 1" under 35 USC §102 and indicated claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of original claims 1 and 2 can be found in claim 29. Claim 29 is therefore an independent form of original claim 2 and is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action.

Claims 30-36, 47 and 48 are dependent on and further limit claim 29. Thus, claims 30-36, 47 and 48 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 29.

Claims 37-52 recite the elements and limitations of claims 2-28 originally filed in the application. The record indicates that the subject matter of these claims has not yet been examined.

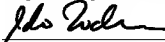
The introduction of claims 29-52 is not made for patentability reasons or to overcome the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should such a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee. Should any additional extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: March 7, 2007

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